

July 23, 1998

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Upcoming Meetings:

North Delta National Wildlife Refuge: The Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled a public meeting to discuss their proposal for a new National Wildlife Refuge. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ulatis Community Center in Vacaville. A memo was distributed at this meeting. Lands under study include: Lower Yolo Bypass, Little Holland Tract, Liberty Island, Liberty Farms, Moore Tract, Hastings Tract, Prospect Island, and Upper and Lower Egbert Tracts. (Flyer was distributed)

CALFED Public Meetings in South Delta: CALFED has scheduled two meetings in the South Delta. The first will be on Monday, July 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Roberts Union Farm Center. (Card with schedule and directions was distributed) A second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening September 9 in Stockton--details are not yet available. This will be in association with a Bay Delta Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for September 10 and 11 in Stockton.

San Francisco Estuary Project State of the Estuary Conference has been set for March 17, 18 and 19, 1999 in San Francisco.

Commission News:

New e-mail Address: The local phone service in the Delta is now providing Internet access which will not require a toll call to Sacramento or Elk Grove. We expect to save over \$150 to \$200 per month of our \$500 to \$600 phone bill. Our new e-mail address is:

Delta Protection Commission@citlink.net

A memo has been included in your mailing packet.

Grants Information:

Prop 204 Delta Tributary Watershed Program Phase II: Applications are due to the State Water Resources Control Board by August 14. Phase II has \$4.3 million for rehabilitation projects in watersheds tributary to the Delta. Projects can include watershed rehabilitation plans, fisheries habitat restoration, and reduction of contaminants in drinking water. Contact Jean Ladyman at the Board at (916) 657-0430 for more information.

Conservation Program of the Packard Foundation has announced a multi-year, 175 million dollar program called "Conserving California Landscapes". They have identified three key regions: Central Coast, Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. Within the Central Valley, they have identified: the Cosumnes River watershed, the foothills of the Mount Lassen are, San Luis Island grasslands and Oristamba Creek regions, and Key wetland, Riparian and agricultural land resources. Grants ideas can be discussed at any time with Michael Mantell, former Chief Deputy of Resources Agency, now working for the California Environmental Trust, Consultant to the Foundation, at (916) 553-4533 (Beveridge and Diamond).

CALFED Meetings:

Lori Clamurro has attended: Ecosystem Restoration Work Group; Water Transfers Work Group, Assurances Work Group; Ecosystem Roundtable, Storage and Conveyance Quarterly Work Shop, Levees and Channels Work Group.

Margit Aramburu has attended: Levees and Channels Work Group, Ecosystem Roundtable, Levees and Channels-Subsidence Subcommittee, CALFED Public Affairs Group.

Other Meetings Attended by Staff:

Lori Clamurro attended:

- * Resources Agency's Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee;
- * Canal Ranch/Beaver Slough Habitat Improvement Project (RD 2086) Site Visit;
- * CVPIA Restoration Fund Projects Meeting
- * Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Site Visit
- * Grasslands Bypass Project Oversight Committee
- * San Joaquin Council of Governments Census Data Work Shop

Margit Aramburu attended:

- * Resources' Agency Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee
- * Packard Foundation Meeting, hosted by Sacramento County
- * Water Education Foundation's Delta Tour (served as Resource Person for Delta segment).
- * Delta Levee Road Task Force (hosted by Sacramento County, but now attended by four County representatives).
- * Delta In-Channel Islands Work Group (contract with CALFED has been signed; working on RFQ for consultants to design project and obtain permits; application for construction phase has been submitted to CALFED)
- * Meeting with representatives of the Mosquito Abatement Districts regarding regional guidelines for restoration of wetlands.

- * Meeting with Sacramento County Planning staff regarding planning and permitting issues in the Primary Zone.
- * Briefing on Agricultural Task Force for Resource Conservation and Economic Growth in the Central Valley (Copy of Executive Summary has been distributed at this meeting).
- * Site Visit to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Note that the Pacific Flyway Center Working Group is proposing to build and operate a \$10 million, internationally recognized Center near the Yolo Basin Wetlands. They are pursuing an option on a parcel of land just west of the Bypass.
- * Contra Costa County LAFCO Meeting regarding proposed City of Oakley.

Other Items:

New Geodetic Network for Horizontal and Vertical Control for the Delta: The National Geodetic Survey and U.S. Geological Survey prepared a new three dimensional geodetic-control network using G.P.S. technology. In the future, the measurements in the Delta will incorporate this new datum. This process is just starting and staff will keep the Commission apprised.

Big Break: EBRPD has completed internal review of the agreement to be forwarded to the remaining floating duck blind owners in Big Break. In addition, EBRPD has signed an option on the water-covered lands in the western half of Big Break.

Recreation Web Site: California Delta Chambers has started a new Delta web site: <http://www.californiadelta.org>.

Beaver Slough Habitat Improvement Project (RD 2086): This project to create a total of one-half mile of new waterside berms for shaded riverine aquatic habitat has recently been constructed following a three year design, redesign and permitting process. The project includes levee protection with riprap, installation of a second, low riprap berm which includes tree stumps with attached roots, fill with imported earthen material, erosion protection, and planting.

Winter Island Dredge Disposal Project (RD 2122): Winter Island will serve as an upland disposal site for material to be dredged by the Corps of Engineers from Suisun Channel. Winter Island will use the material to bolster its levees and protect the managed wetland habitat on the Island.

CALFED Information: Included in the mailing packets are: (1) a letter from Lester Snow, dated June 30, acknowledging receipt of the Commission's comments on the DEIR; and (2) A Summary, dated June 2, 1998, of the public hearings on the CALFED DEIR. The copy you received in the mail is missing pages; a correct copy has been distributed tonight.

Proposed Incorporation of the City of Oakley: A memo has been enclosed describing the current status of the proposal to incorporate a new city in Contra Costa County. The proposed City of Oakley will be voted on in November. The current proposal would include the existing developed areas and some agricultural lands east of Highway 4, all in the Secondary Zone. In the Primary Zone, the water-covered lands currently owned by East Bay Regional Park District would not be included, and only a 200 foot wide strip of water-covered are would be in the City limits. This is to allow one local government to have permit authority over projects which might be located on land and in the water such as a dock or fishing pier. Until the City prepares and adopts a general plan, the Contra Costa County General Plan would serve as the City's general plan. If the City is adopted, the Delta Protection Commission should ask the Legislature to include a reference to the City of Oakley, or a more general reference to "other cities that may be incorporated" to the Delta Protection Act of 1992 to address similar situations. Note: City of Oakley will not include Big Break water-covered lands allowing continuation of hunting.